

Program Highlights

The first grade program supports our school's philosophy that *All students are blessed with unique gifts, talents, and abilities...* The targeted maximum is 20-24 students in each First Grade class. School is in session from 8:20 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. The core academic program includes Phonics, Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. Literacy Centers are incorporated throughout the week, which involve learning through hands-on activities, independent work, and group games. Bible classes that include role-playing, crafts, and puppets, are added to the curriculum to deepen the students' understanding of God and His Word. Our students enjoy enrichment learning activities in Specialty Classes that include Computer Science, Music, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Spanish, Meet the Masters, and bi-weekly visits to the school library. Students enjoy 20 minutes for morning snack and recess and 35 minutes for lunch and recess. First Grade students share their recess periods with only Kindergarten students; Support Staff members provide careful supervision. Three academic field trips are incorporated throughout the year to enrich student understanding.

Miss Christy Williamson is a first grade teacher at Red Hill Lutheran School. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and Social Behavior with a minor in Education, a California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, and a Masters of Arts in Teaching from the University of California Irvine. Miss Williamson has substituted for grades K-8 in the Irvine Unified School District, at a private school in Fullerton and served as a long-term substitute for third grade at Westwood Basics Plus Elementary in Irvine. Miss Williamson has worked at Red Hill Lutheran School as a classroom aide, substitute teacher, summer camp teacher and first grade teacher. She enjoys the water and has taught private swimming lessons for six years. Miss Williamson also loves teaching and creating art.

Mrs. Claire Azzara attended the University of San Diego, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Diversified Liberal Arts with a Human Development Emphasis, and a California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. Mrs. Azzara taught Kindergarten in the San Diego Unified School District for three years until her husband's career led them back to Orange County in the Fall of 2006. Since then, Mrs. Azzara has been teaching Pre-Kindergarten at Jenny Hart Early Education Center in Irvine. Mrs. Azzara and her husband reside in Tustin Ranch. She enjoys reading, scrapbooking, baking, and spending time with family. Mrs. Azzara and her family enjoy rooting for their favorite baseball team the Angels. She and her husband recently welcomed a new son!

Mrs. Lisa Gordon attended Red Hill Lutheran School in 1982 from second through seventh grade and has fond memories. She has 11 years of experience as an educator. She taught Kindergarten for two years, served as the Assistant Principal last year, and is currently teaching first grade. Mrs. Gordon holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Child Development from Cal State Fullerton and completed her credential coursework. Her son Tyler attends Pre-Kindergarten at RHLS. Mrs. Gordon feels very blessed that she is able to teach children about Jesus Christ and feels the importance of instilling positive Christian values. She believes in a multi-sensory approach to learning and differentiated instructional opportunities.



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Our curriculum and instructional materials are current, motivating, challenging, and responsive to student needs. All materials and instructional goals meet the California Content Standards. We emphasize hands-on learning activities that appeal to multiple learning modalities and are integrated with technology to support student learning.

Mathematics

Harcourt Math curriculum is used to develop Addition and Subtraction Concepts, Money, Time and Graphing, Geometry, Measurement, and Fractions, and Double-Digit Addition and Subtraction. The students are introduced to these fundamental concepts through hands-on learning, manipulatives, computer-based games, and interactive learning via the Promethean Board. Nightly math homework is given to reinforce what is learned in class.

Language Arts

Open Court Reading , Foundations Phonics, and Write Source curriculum are used in conjunction to develop strong reading, spelling, and writing skills. Open Court Reading Curriculum teaches students comprehension skills and strategies with thematic units. Foundations Phonics Curriculum equips students to read and spell words with ease. Write Source introduces the Writing Process and Narrative, Expository, and Creative Writing. Language Arts homework is given tri-weekly to reinforce concepts introduced in class. Students complete two in-class book reports and one at-home project.

Science

The FOSS Science curriculum is a hands-on program where students learn about Plants and Animals, Weather and Seasons, and Liquids, Solids, and Gases through activities and experiments. Science homework is given throughout the school year. Students attend two engaging, academic field trips to Tanaka Farms and the Environmental Nature Center to further their understanding of plants and animals.

Social Studies

Social Studies is introduced in the second trimester and continued in the third trimester using Houghton Mifflin curriculum. The five units are titled: *People Everywhere*, *Where We Live*, *World of Work*, *Everything Changes*, and *Good Citizens*. Students discuss communities, economics, government, and past, present, and future in whole and small groups. Students are also taught using interactive PowerPoint presentations.

Bible

ACSI Bible curriculum deepens understanding of Bible stories and fundamental principles of Christianity. Interactive Bible stories and Bible homework is given weekly. This homework assists the students in memorizing the required, weekly school Bible verse and allows for at home discussion of God's Word.

Classroom Management

Our teachers consider their teaching profession a ministry, and they serve as Christian role models, teaching Christian truths and values.

Our teachers provide a warm, loving environment where students can be nurtured and are free to learn without fear of failure or embarrassment. Public humiliation is never an acceptable form of discipline. Through continued encouragement and positive reinforcement, students learn appropriate classroom and playground behavior.



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Our teachers are also happy to share more information about our program with you. Contact them at the following E-mail addresses:

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